# **Investigative Summary**

Incident: Attempted Murder of a Peace Officer, Deputy Involved in Non-Hit

Shooting.

LASD Report: 407-08230-2853-055

IAB File: SH 2194940

## **Opening Statement**

On Monday, May 14, 2007, Internal Affairs Bureau investigators responded to an incident command post, erected by Compton Station personnel on Alondra Blvd. and Long Beach Blvd. in the city of Compton. Sergeant Trent Denison, Sergeant John Harris, Lieutenant Dave Whitham and Lieutenant Mike Parker were briefed regarding the circumstances of a Deputy Involved Shooting involving two Compton O.S.S. detectives. Sergeant Denison was assigned the responsibility for the administrative review of the incident.

## Synopsis

On May 14, 2007 shortly before 2219 hours, Compton Station Operation Safe Streets (OSS) detectives Ronald Navarrete and Joseph Valencia (280GA) were assisting Homicide detectives at where a murder had occurred earlier in the evening. The murder was the result of on ongoing battle between two factions of the Crips street gang, the "Neighborhood Compton Crips" vs. "West Side Compton Crips". See 187 P.C. report and associated Supplemental reports under File #007-08219-2853-011 for more information [Exhibit A]. Both detectives were outside of their car, talking with Homicide investigators when they heard numerous gunshots a few blocks south of their location. The gunfire is believed to be related to an Assault With a Deadly Weapon incident which occurred at Schinner St. and Long Beach Blvd., Compton, as reported under File #407-08227-2844-051 [Exhibit B]. It is also believed this assault was in retaliation for the earlier murder incident involving the above mentioned rival gang members. The victim of the 245 P.C. drove away from the scene of the assault and happened to stop where he met Detectives Navarrete and Valencia at the scene where they had just been involved in a shooting. The assault victim's vehicle had been struck with gunfire while at Schinner St. and Long Beach Blvd.

Detectives Navarrete and Valencia got into their unmarked dark gray Ford Crown Victoria (Police Interceptor model) with Detective Valencia driving, and drove several blocks towards the area they believed the gunfire originated. This was in order to locate the source of the gunfire and any possible suspects and/or victims involved. They drove south on Cuzco Av. towards Bennett St. where they saw two male blacks running at that corner. They noticed one of the males (later identified as Ronald Clark) was carrying an AK-47 assault rifle, held at port arms, and the second male (later identified as Derrell Perkins) was holding a large pistol in his right

hand. Both males ran east across the street from the west sidewalk of Cusco Av. and onto Bennett St.

IAB note: Bennett St. runs east from Long Beach Blvd. and dead ends onto Cuzco Av., which is a north/south street. Approximately with Cuzco Av., Bennett St. continues again, heading east from Cuzco Av.

At the time Detectives Navarrete and Valencia saw the two armed males, and came to a complete stop near the middle of the street at the northeast corner of Cuzco Av. and Bennett St., both suspects crossed the street approximately six to ten feet from the front of the detective's radio car. As both detectives were exiting their car to ensure they did not get trapped within it, and were about to order the suspects to stop, Suspect Perkins, holding the pistol, turned his upper torso to the right, raised his right arm to point and aim his pistol at the detectives, and fired one shot at them. The distance between the detectives and Perkins at the point he shot at them was approximately twenty yards. The Detectives were to the northwest of him and still getting out of their car when they were shot at. Suspect Clark, with the rifle, did not fire at them but continued running east on Bennett St.

Detective Valencia returned fire, shooting six rounds from his Department issued Beretta at Suspect Perkins. At the time he fired at Suspect Perkins, Detective Valencia was standing at the open driver's door of the radio car, and shooting in an easterly direction.

Detective Navarrete, at the same time, also returned fire, utilizing his personally owned Beretta 92FS pistol. Detective Navarrete fired three rounds as he stood near the right front fender of the radio car, utilizing the engine block for cover and so not to be in a cross fire with his partner. He too fired in an easterly direction at Suspect Perkins.

At the time of the shooting, both Perkins and Clark continued running east along the north sidewalk of Bennett St..

Both detectives ran from their car to take cover behind a tree located by the sidewalk
approximately ten feet to the east of their car and in front of Cuzco Av.
). Once Detectives Navarrete and Valencia reached the
tree, they realized they could not see around the corner to where Clark and Perkins were and they
were afraid the suspects would use a common tactic of circling behind them to re-engage from
the rear or return to re-engage from the front.

Detectives Navarrete and Valencia collectively made the tactical decision to advance around the corner of Cuzco Av. and onto Bennett St. in order to maintain a visual on both suspects and to prevent themselves from being ambushed. They noticed Suspects Clark and Perkins were still running east on Bennett St. and were some distance down the block. Both detectives could not see if the suspects were still armed. They did not want to remain in the open on the sidewalk of

Bennett St. so they moved forward approximately thirty feet to a large tree which was the best source of cover against rifle rounds and the only solid cover nearby. While at the tree, Detective Navarrete maintained a visual on the suspects and told Detective Valencia the location the suspects were running towards. Detective Valencia utilized his hand held radio and broadcast that they had just been involved in a shooting and he set up a containment with responding units. Both Detectives chose not to chase after the suspects immediately when fired upon by Suspect Perkins, and instead took a tactical position behind the tree in order to maintain cover while setting up the containment.

A containment of the area was set up and a short time later, with the assistance of a K-9 unit,
Suspects Perkins and Clark were found near the end of the block, hiding in a

E. Bennett St. There were eight other gang members located within the same house at the time. During a field show up, both Detective Navarrete and Detective Valencia positively identified Suspect Perkins as the one who shot at them and Suspect Clark as the one they saw running with the assault rifle. The suspects were arrested. The other eight males, later found to be fellow gang members and associates with Perkins and Clark (Neighborhood Compton Crips) were arrested for various charges and to determine possible involvement in any/all of the assaults and murder that occurred earlier in the evening. None of the eight were seen by Detectives Navarrete and Valencia at the time of their shooting. See crime reports attached with this

investigation, documented under File #407-08230-2853-055 [Exhibit C].

# Involved Personnel

Detective Ronald Navarrete,

FOR II, Compton Station O.S.S.

Work History

Date of Employment:

Date Assigned to Patrol:

Date Completed Patrol Training:

Date Assigned to Compton Station O.S.S.:

Prior Shooting Incident(s):

**Prior Founded Force Incidents:** 

06-16-91

paco:

03-01-05

Detective Joseph Valencia,

FOR II, Compton Station O.S.S.

Work History

Date of Employment:

05-03-90

Date Assigned to Compton Station O.S.S.:
Prior Shooting Incident(s):

**Prior Founded Force Incidents:** 

04-01-05 Three (3)

# Suspects

1	Perkins, Derrell Mishon, MB/19, DOB: 09-03-1987. Blk eves. Bro hair. 510, 160, CA
	License Booking #9795453,
	. Active member of the "Neighborhood Compton Crips"
	gang.
	5 m 5 1
2	Clark, Ronald Dennis, MB/35, DOB: 12-01-1971. Blk eves. Bro hair. 507, 138. CA
	License Booking #9795449,
	Active member of the "Neighborhood Compton
	Crips" gang. Suspect Clark's
	OThe South Court of

IAB note: At the time of this investigation, both Suspects Perkins and Clark were detained pending criminal charges related to this incident.

#### Witnesses

There are no known witnesses to this incident.

During the criminal investigation of this incident by Compton OSS Detective Hecht, a person was located who said he saw Suspect Clark, holding an AK-47 rifle, in the driveway of the some time in the evening prior to this incident.

### Injuries

No Deputies, Suspects or Civilians were injured during this incident.

## Physical Evidence

The following evidence was located and retrieved by Scientific Services Bureau technicians and documented by them via supplemental reports and diagrams [Exhibit D].

(1) 9mm bullet casing was found on the passenger side windshield wiper of the radio car used by

Detectives Valencia and Navarrete. (1) 9mm bullet casing was found in the driver's door pocket of the radio car. (4) 9mm bullet casings were found on the street adjacent to the passenger side of the radio car. (2) 9mm bullet casings were found on the street adjacent to the driver's side of the radio car.

IAB note: According to statements by the involved detectives, it is believed a combined total of nine rounds were fired by them. Only eight 9mm bullet casings were located.

- (1) fired bullet from the driveway of the residence at Cuzco Av. (1) fired bullet from the sidewalk in front of the residence at Cuzco Av.
- (1) bullet hole in the front right quarter panel of a Dodge Ram 1500 pick-up (CA lic. which was parked on the north side of Bennett St. facing west at the corner of Cuzco Av. The bullet perforated the side panel and impacted the engine block. The bullet's trajectory was from front to back, right to left in a downward direction.
- (1) bullet impact to the front wall of the residence at Cuzco Av. The bullet traveled in an eastern direction however, no further trajectory could be determined.
- (1) bullet impact to the cement flower bed border in front of the residence at Cuzco Av. The bullet traveled in an eastern direction however, no further trajectory could be determined.
- (3) bullet impacts to the front wrought iron fence of the residence at Cuzco Av. These bullets traveled in an eastern direction however, no further trajectories could be determined.

For other found items taken as evidence such as clothing, car keys and cell phone, see Supplemental Report and diagram [Exhibit D].

Investigators Observations

During the walkthrough of the scene, it was determined that the incident began in front of Cuzco Av. (the of Cuzco Av. and Bennett St.). Cuzco Av. and Bennett St. are both residential streets consisting of single family residences on both sides. Cuzco Av. runs north and south while the 3700 blk of Bennett St. is an east to west street which runs east from Cuzco Av. There is a section of Bennett St. which runs east from Long Beach Blvd. for one block and dead ends into Cuzco Av. (approximately of where it picks up again, running east). Cuzco Av. is forty feet wide with a sidewalk bordering each side and a three foot wide grassy area separating the sidewalk and the street. Bennett St. is also forty feet wide with a sidewalk bordering each side and a three foot grassy area separating the sidewalk and the street.

Investigators observed a white Dodge Ram 1500 pick-up (CA lic. # with attached open box trailer (CA lic. # parked alongside the north curb on Bennett St. near the house at

Cuzco Av. Investigators observed a bullet strike to the right front fender/quarter panel of the truck.

IAB note:

The bullet hole corresponds to the direction of fire by Detectives Navarrete and Valencia and is from the same direction/location Suspects Perkins and Clark were running. The expended bullet struck the engine block and was unable to be located.

At the time of the walkthrough, all the other above mentioned bullet strikes were not noticed.

Eight expended 9mm shell casings were observed in close proximity to the radio car used by Detectives Navarrete and Valencia, in the driver's door pocket, on the passenger windshield wiper, and on the street around the car.

(1) expended bullet fragment was observed by investigators on the driveway/sidewalk area of the house at the Cuzco Av.

IAB note:

The bullet fragment and bullet holes were unrecognizable to the investigators as to what type and caliber weapon(s) they originated from. All evidence was collected by Scientific Services Bureau personnel and taken to the Crime Lab for inspection.

Investigators observed the following weapons:

- I) A large caliber, blue steel, six inch barrel revolver, with wood grips, laying on the grass in the front yard of the house at Cuzco Av.
- 2) An AK-47 style assault rifle on the grass in the front yard of the house at Bennett St.
- 3) A Ruger Mini-14 rifle with folding stock, attached scope, attached 30-round magazine, and a black coat on the grass in the backyard of the house at Wymore St. (The
- 4) A blue steel 12 GA. Pump shotgun with it's wood stock sawed off, leaving a pistol grip, laying in the back of the trailer that was attached to the above mentioned Dodge pick-up.

# Weapon used by Detective Navarrete

Detective Navarrete fired three (3) rounds of Department issued 9mm ammunition from his personally owned Beretta 92FS 9mm semiautomatic pistol, Serial #

### Weapon used by Detective Valencia

Detective Valencia fired six (6) rounds of Department issued 9mm ammunition from his Department issued Beretta 92F 9mm semiautomatic pistol, Serial #

## Weapon used by Suspect Perkins

A blue steel, six inch barrel Colt revolver, model- New Service, Serial # 45 caliber, with

This when	ired cartridge cases and one live cartridge in the cylinder was recovered at the location.  weapon is the one Detectives Navarrete and Valencia believed was used by Suspect Perkins he shot at them. This weapon was recovered from the grass in the front yard of Av.  con used by Suspect Clark
A On # locati Suspe	with one cartridge in the chamber and one in the magazine was recovered at the on. This is the assault weapon Detectives Navarrete and Valencia believed was carried by act Clark at the time of this incident. This weapon was recovered from the grass in the front of Bennett St.
The a	additional weapons (mentioned above) that were recovered at the location:
1)	A Western Field 12 Gauge pump shotgun, Model-M550ABD, Serial # with one shotshell in the chamber and two shotshells in the magazine tube. The weapon's wood stock had been sawed off at the pistol grip area. Recovered from in the back of the open trailer attached to a Dodge Ram 1500 pick-up truck parked on the street in front of the residence at Cuzco Av.
2)	A Ruger 223 Remington caliber, Model-Mini-14, semiautomatic rifle, Serial # with folding stock, 30-round magazine and attached scope. Recovered from the backyard of the residence at E. Wymore St. (The house
Prop	erty Damage
1)	One bullet hole in the front right quarter panel of a Dodge Ram 1500 pick-up truck, CA License parked on the street against the north curb line of Cuzco Av. The bullet perforated the side panel and impacted the engine block.
2)	One bullet impact to the front wall of the residence at Cuzco Av.
3)	One bullet impact to the cement flower bed border in front of the residence at Cuzco Av.
4)	Three bullet impacts to the front fence of the residence at Cuzco Av.
	inal Investigators
Detec	ctive Peter Hecht of Compton Station OSS is the lead detective.
Light	ting and Weather Conditions
CO1	1

The shooting occurred during the hours of darkness. Artificial lighting was provided by City street lights, with additional lighting provided by floodlights on the exterior of the house at Cuzco Av. and nearly all the other houses on both Cuzco Av. and Bennett St. Further artificial lighting was provided by the headlights and both spotlights of the radio car utilized by Detectives Navarrete and Valencia.

The weather was cool and the sky was clear.

# IAB Interview of Detective Navarrete

The narrative which follows is intended only as a synopsis of the IAB interview. Additional information and precise wording may be obtained by reviewing Detective Navarrete's recorded interview and attached interview transcription.

Detective Navarrete said he joinded the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department approximately He worked at the

and he was assigned as a Detective at Compton OSS in October of 2006. He added that he has been assigned as a regular partner with Detective Valencia for approximately two years. Prior to working at Compton Station,

in a shooting, often while working together. Prior to the start of his PM shift, in which this incident took place, he slept for approximately eight-plus hours.

Detective Navarrete said he was assigned to work with his regular partner, Detective Valencia in 280GA for the PM shift. They assisted Homicide at the scene of a murder, which had occurred earlier in the shift and was most likely related to an assault with a deadly weapon incident, also earlier in the evening. He said he heard a large amount of gunfire that appeared to be within several blocks of their location so he and his partner drove in the direction of the gunfire. He said that when they drove south on Cuzco Av. near Bennett St., he noticed two black males running from the west side of Cuzco Av., east onto Bennett St. Detective Navarrete said he illuminated the two men and noticed one was carrying an AK-47 assault rifle and the other was holding a large pistol as they ran across the front of the radio car, approximately five to ten feet in front. He said the car's headlights were on and he also illuminated the two men with his spotlight. He added that Detective Valencia also illuminated the two suspects with his spotlight. Detective Navarrete said he could clearly see the two men were armed as they ran, one in front of the other, and he believed they may have just committed a assault with a deadly weapon by shooting at someone. He said Detective Valencia immediately stopped the radio car so as not to engage the suspects, who had them outgunned. He yelled to his partner that one of the suspects had "a long rifle". He heard his partner say he saw the rifle too. As the radio car came to a stop, he opened the passenger door to exit because he knew, based on studies that have been conducted, that suspects will shoot at the radio car since it is the largest police object they see. He said that as he was still getting out of the car, he saw Suspect Perkins with the pistol, stop running, turn his body towards them, raise his arm to take aim and fire one shot at them. He said he clearly saw the muzzle flash from the barrel of Suspect Perkins' gun. He said when Perkins shot at them, Perkins was near the north side and in front of a Dodge pick-up that was parked on Bennett St. Detective Navarrete said he has no doubt that Suspect Perkins knew they were law enforcement because he and Detective Valencia often stop to talk to gang members in the same area, while driving the same unmarked radio car. Also because he has been told during gang member interviews that they all know what cars the gang detectives drive and the tactics police use. He said that gang members also know that regular civilian cars don't have windshield mounted spotlights such as the ones he and Detective Valencia illuminated the suspects with and Security Guards do not patrol the area. He added that he was wearing a standard Department

issue green Polo shirt with arm patches, a tactical ballistic vest with a Sheriff's star on the front, "Sheriff' in bold letters on the back, blue jeans and a Sam Brown gun belt.

Detective Navarrete said he stood near the front passenger fender of the radio car, to utilize the engine block as cover while he returned fire with his personally owned Beretta 92FS pistol. He said he fired four rounds at Suspect Perkins, who then continued to run east on Bennett St.

IAB note: Detective Navarrete said he fired four times but according to a count of his remaining rounds, compared to how many rounds he stated he caries in his weapon, he actually fired three times.

Detective Navarrete said his background was a parked Dodge pick-up on the street as Suspect Perkins ran in front of it. After he shot back at Suspect Perkins, he moved from the radio car, east to a tree for cover next to the sidewalk in front of Cuzco Av. where his partner had already gone for cover. He said Detective Valencia also fired several rounds from his weapon then broadcast, via handheld radio, that they had just been involved in a shooting (998).

Detective Navarrete said he could not see around the corner of the house and lost sight of the suspects. He was afraid the suspects would double back behind them or return in front of them and re-engage them in a gunfight. He made the tactical decision with his partner, to move around the corner and run to a sin front of Bennett St. (which is Cuzco Av. and on the north side of the street). Detective Navarrete said he covered his partner and kept a visual on the suspects while telling Detective Valencia where they were so Valencia could relay the information on the radio to assisting units. He said they never chased after the suspects while in the radio car or on foot and only moved from their position by the first tree, to gain a better vantage point and for safety. He added that there was no adequate cover aside from the tree. Detective Navarrete said that throughout the incident, he stayed next to his partner and they communicated both verbally and visually with each other.

Detective Navarrete said, based on the circumstances, he had no choice but to shoot at Suspect Perkins. He said; "Yeah, I thought he was going to k-, (kill) well, after the first round went off, when he shot at us, I thought, okay, this guy's going to shoot at us some more. They just got done shooting sixty rounds, we're just two cops, what do they care?"

Detective Navarrete, for points of reference and clarity, indicated his approximate positions and those of the suspects, on a hand drawn diagram, during his IAB interview. See attached diagram [Attachment A].

#### IAB Interview of Detective Valencia

The narrative which follows is intended only as a synopsis of the IAB interview. Additional information and precise wording may be obtained by reviewing Detective Valencia's recorded interview and attached interview transcription.

Detective Valencia said he joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department approximately  He worked at the
and was assigned as an OSS Detective at Compton Station at the time of this incident. Detective Valencia had worked OSS for eleven months. Detective Valencia said he has worked with Detective Navarrete for approximately 8-years and they have talked about tactics and what to do when involved in a shooting. Prior to the start of shift, and this shooting, he had approximately eight hours of sleep.
Detective Valencia said he was assigned to work with his regular partner, Detective Navarrete in 280GA for the PM shift. They assisted Homicide at the scene of a murder, which had occurred earlier in the shift and was most likely related to an assault with a deadly weapon incident, also earlier in the evening. He said he heard a large amount of gunfire that appeared to be within several blocks of their location so he drove with his partner in the direction of the gunfire. He said that when he drove south on Cuzco Av. near Bennett St., he noticed two black males running from the west side of Cuzco Av., east onto Bennett St. Detective Valencia said he illuminated the two men and noticed one was carrying an AK-47 assault rifle and the other was holding a large pistol as they ran across the front of the radio car, approximately 10 to 15 yards in front. He said his headlights were on and he also illuminated the two men with his spotlight. He added that Detective Navarrete also illuminated the two suspects with his spotlight. Detective Valencia said he could clearly see the two men were armed as they ran and he believed they may have been involved in the gunfire he had heard, by shooting at someone.  Detective Valencia said he immediately stopped the radio car so as not to engage the suspects, who had them outgunned. He yelled to his partner that one of the suspects had "a long rifle". He heard his partner acknowledge that he too saw the weapon. As the radio car came to a stop, he opened the drivers door to exit because he knew, based on studies that have been conducted, that suspects will shoot at the radio car since it is the largest police object they see. He said that as he was getting out of the car, he saw Suspect Perkins, with the pistol, turn his body towards them, raise his arm to take aim and fired one shot at them. He said Perkins had kept running the entire time and when Perkins shot at them, he was approximately ten to fifteen yards to the cast on Bennett St. Detective Valencia said he has no doubt that
at the open driver's door and returned fire with his Department Beretta, shooting six rounds at Suspect Perkins, who continued to run east on Bennett St. Detective Valencia said his background was a parked <u>Dodge</u> pick-up on the street,
and the house, at Cuzco Av. After he shot back at Suspect Perkins, he moved from
the radio car, east approximately seven to ten yards, and to a for cover next to the sidewalk

in Cuzco Av. He said Detective Navarrete also fired several rounds from his
weapon then joined him at the for cover.
Detective Valencia said he could not see around the corner of the house and lost sight of the
suspects. He was afraid the suspects would double back behind them or return in front of them
and re-engage them in a gunfight. He made the tactical decision with his partner, to move around
the corner and run to a Bennett St. (which is
Cuzco Av. and on the north side of the street). Detective Valencia said he used his
handheld radio to broadcast they had been involved in a shooting while he was running to the
tree for cover. He continued to use the radio to initiate a containment of the area while Detective
Navarrete stood by his side and told him where the suspects were headed. He said they never
chased after the suspects while in the radio car or on foot and only moved from their position by
the first tree, to gain a better vantage point of safety. He added that there was no adequate cover
aside from the tree. Detective Valencia said that throughout the incident, he stayed next to his
partner and they communicated both verbally and visually with each other.

Detective Valencia said, based on the circumstances, he had no choice but to return fire at Suspect Perkins. He said he did not fire at Suspect Clark and after the initial shooting, he did not have to fire again.

Detective Valencia said he did not see any other persons on the street and there were no vehicles moving at the time of the shooting.

Detective Valencia, for points of reference and clarity, indicated his approximate positions and those of the suspects, on a hand drawn diagram, during his IAB interview. See attached diagram [Attachment B].

#### Suspect Statements

Both Suspects Perkins and Clark were interviewed by Compton OSS detectives as part of the criminal case. Both suspects denied having any involvement in, or knowledge of, the incident nor of the evidence found. Both also denied ever possessing any of the weapons recovered.

## Miscellaneous

- \* The personally owned Beretta 92FS belonging to Detective Navarrete was transported to the Sheriff's Department Scientific Services Bureau Firearms Identification Section for test firing and examination. Refer to Receipt #J877462 & Subsequent Inspection Report, dated May 15, 2007, in the Miscellaneous Section of this investigation.
- \* The Department issued Beretta 92F belonging to Detective Valencia was transported to the Sheriff's Department Scientific Services Bureau Firearms Identification Section for

test firing and examination. Refer to Receipt #J877462 & Subsequent Inspection Report, dated May 15, 2007, in the Miscellaneous Section of this investigation.

- DMV records indicate the Dodge Pick-up truck, CA License # , that was struck by a bullet, and it's attached trailer, CA License #4 , a shotgun was located in, are registered to \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*
- \* DMV records for the described Dodge pick-up and attached trailer.
- \* AFS records for the four recovered suspect weapons.

1